GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:512
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2008
INTRODUCTION OF LPG IN FIBRE GLASS CYLINDERS
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to introduce LPG in fibre glass cylinders imported from Norway to prevent malpractice of LPG distribution;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the shortage of LPG cylinders in present form has prompted the Government to go in for fibre glass cylinders;

(d) whether a Committee has been constituted by the Department of Consumer Affairs to identify the problems being faced by LPG consumers particularly with regard to malpractices in distribution;

(e) if so, what are the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(f) the other steps taken by the Government to meet the huge shortage of LPG supply across the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (c) : Government has conveyed "in principle" approval to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for expanding the product line by way of introduction of composite cylinders for marketing domestic LPG, subject to there being no subsidy element in the LPG to be marketed through these composite cylinders.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): No Committee has been constituted by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to identify the problems being faced by LPG consumers.

(f): Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country, and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.
However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in some States of the country due to reduction in supply of bulk LPG by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January, 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour etc. Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also being done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.